as action against the firm for over invoicing/malpractices is concerned, sufficient provisions exist in the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation Act, 1992) to deal with such cases.

Issue of licences for import of Soyabean

6764. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued licences for import of Soyabean and these imports have been exempted from any duty under the advance licence scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these importers will be required to export only the oilcakes and extraction and sell the soyabean oil in the open market without payment of any duty;

(c) whether Government is aware that domestic price of soyabean oil is double the international price, as a result of which these importers will be free to sell oil into the open market at the domestic price and earn huge profits without any tax liability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A Special Scheme has been notified vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 273 (PN)/92-97 dated 20-2-1995 permitting duty free import of Soyabean under Advance Licensing Scheme with an obligation to export Soyabean Extraction only and retention of Soyabean Oil for sale in the domestic market to supplement the domestic availability of edible oils. The Scheme imposes higher export obligation of Soyabean Extraction for neutralising the gains which are likely to accrue as a result of domestic sale, which will be at par with other domestic sales for the purpose of taxation.

Survey regarding exports of sandalwood products

6765. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has done any survey of exports of sandalwood and products made from sandalwood;

(b) if so, what is the acope for such exports; and

(c) whether Government is exploiting the export potential fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Export of sandalwood in its raw form is prohibited under the existing Export-Import policy. This is to ensure that only value added sandalwood products are exported which in turn will bring more foreign exchange to the country. To exploit the export potential of sandalwood products fully, policy for export of finished handicrafts made out of sandalwood and machine finished sandalwood products has been liberalised. Export promotion measures for the above products are taken through the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) and Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.

Review of sandalwood export policies

6766. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will review the policies with regard to sandalwood exports in 1995-96;

(b) whether it is a fact that large stocks of sandalwood are lying idle; and

(c) what Government propose to do with existing sandalwood stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some report have been received regarding accumulation of stocks in the forest depots. Sandalwood in the form of logs, chips, flakes etc. which form the raw material for the manufacture of handicrafts, mechine finished products and sandalwood oil, are auctioned from time to time by the forest depots for the manufacture of such value add products whose exports are freely permitted.

Review of export councils under Commerce Ministry

6767. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plant to make a review of all the Export Councils under the Ministry;

(b) whether there is a possibility of encouraging exporters organisations to consider expanding their role; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The review of the Export Promotion Councils under the Ministry of Commerce is being held at the time of approving the annual plan and Budget, and the mid-year review according to the provisions of para 149 of the Export Import Policy. In addition, reviews are also held as warranted.

(b) and (c) The role and functions of the Export Promotion Councils are specified in Paras 145 and 146 of the Export-Import Policy and the Councils are constantly encouraged to expand their role consistant with their charter.

Import of Newsprint

6768. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value and weight of Newsprint imported from foreign countries during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): As per Foreign Trade Statistics published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics for the period April, 1994 — February, 1995 the value and weight of newsprint imported from foreign countries are as under :—

Weight (Tons)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
259193	42713.93

Public Sector Companies|Undertakings Engaged in Export, Joint Ventures with Foreign Companies

6769. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector companies|undertakings presently engaged in export trade, joint ventures with foreign companies for establishment of export oriented units in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these companies had a lot of disturbance because of Government's in decision or inept handling of certain payments due to them;

(c) whether repeated efforts by such export companies in public sector to sort out the problem have not resulted in resolving the problems so far;

(d) whether Government have also receied a spate of requests on such accounts from Members of Parliament in the last one year;

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(f) what further action is proposed to be taken in this regard?